

NJASA CONFERENCE AND TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

SCHOOL SECURITY

NJASA's goal since the **March 24, 1998**, school violence incident from Jonesboro, Arkansas - four students and one teacher killed, ten others wounded outside as Westside Middle School emptied during a false fire alarm. Mitchell Johnson, 13, and Andrew Golden, 11, shot at their classmates and teachers from the woods, to better prepare school leaders to deal with crisis.

NJASA designed appropriate forums with extremely resourceful presenters and valuable information to provide its membership with a bank of professional knowledge, skills, and plans for dealing with a crisis. Over time and with each horrific incident, NJASA has redesigned and reevaluated the formats to address the concerns created with each horrific incident.

The Association has been instrumental in serving on numerous taskforces regarding school safety and violence and has been a driving force behind legislation to meet the needs of the membership and society. NJASA has also designed and conducted various surveys to assist New Jersey's elected representatives as they move forward in developing regulations and legislation.

In addition, the NJASA Legal Research Publication Program has published numerous Administrative Guides addressing the issues of bullying, student discipline, expulsion, harassment, internet, Megan's Law, safety/security, and search/seizure.

NJASA and NJSIAA First Conference on Violence in the Public Schools April 28, 1999

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Ronald D. Stephens, Executive Director, National School Safety Center, Westlake Village, California, and Dr. Beverly Coleman-Miller, President, BCM Group, Inc., Washington, D.C.

- ✓ 300 attendees with significant media coverage from the tri-state region

Sample Conversation from the Executive Committee Minutes May 16, 1999

G. School Safety/Security Initiative

Recent events throughout the nation have caused administrators to reexamine policies, procedures, and laws.

Presently, a loophole in the law permits a student to be expelled from one district, for a very serious reason, and transfer to another district without the notification of expulsion, since only health, attendance, and academic reports may be communicated to the next school.

We need legislation that either:

- a. requires the notification of expulsion to the next school of transfer; or
- b. determines that once due process has been afforded, and a board of education has taken action to expel, a student has forfeited his/her right to a public education ... which would remove the ability to transfer.

NJASA will work with key legislators to address this problem.

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NJASA and NJSIAA Second Conference on Violence in the Public Schools May 3, 2000

- ✓ **April 20, 1999**, Littleton, Colorado 14 students (including shooters) and one teacher killed, 27 others wounded at Columbine High School in the nation's deadliest school shooting. Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, had plotted for a year to kill at least 500 and blow up their school. At the end of their hour-long rampage, they turned their guns on themselves.

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Jane Hammond, Superintendent, Jefferson County Public Schools, Jefferson County, Colorado. As superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools that includes Columbine High School in Littleton, Hammond played a key leadership role in the Columbine High School tragedy on April 20, 1999. Her presentation focused on "What Columbine Can Tell Us."

The luncheon speaker was Robert W. Kubey, Associate Professor of Communications at Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey. He is a developmental psychologist who researches the effects of the media and discussed, "The Media and Adolescent Violence."

Nine group sessions illustrated best practice models being utilized by school districts to prevent the occurrence of violent behavior by students.

- ✓ 350 + attendees with significant media coverage from the tri-state region to idea-share with one of their colleagues

NJASA/NJASBO/NJSIAA Third Conference on Violence in the Public Schools November 27, 2001, The tragic bombings of September 11th have caused New Jersey school districts to deal intensely with the aftermath of the violence and related diversity issues. The conference's focus was to assist school districts to refine their crisis management plans to reflect the new reality.

Keynote Speakers: Vincent Bove, a nationally acclaimed expert on "American School Violence: Crime Prevention and Community Partnership Responses, was the Region Manager, Summit Security Services, Inc., the preeminent provider of security services in the New York Metropolitan area, with over 2,300 security officers at sites including the World Trade Center, NBC Studio's, JFK International Airport, Columbia University, Saint Peter's College and the Federal Reserve bank of New York.

Leroy Jones, Director, Workplace Diversity for PSE&G, addressed the importance of diversity in the corporate workplace.

Information-packed group sessions dealing with such topics as:

- ✓ Diversity: principles and response
- ✓ Critical Legal School Violence Issues

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- ✓ Building a school district crisis response program
- ✓ Procedures for canceling or postponing athletic events
- ✓ Preventive measures pertaining to hazing and bullying
- ✓ How one district responded to the September 11th tragedy
- ✓ 250+ attendees with heavy media coverage from the tri-state region

NJASA School Security Conference Welcomes Newtown, CT Public Schools Superintendent

Dr. Janet Robinson, Keynote Speaker March 13, 2013

Students, one of society's most valuable assets and the future leaders of the world, are experiencing a new "Normal." The horrific news on the morning of December 14, 2012, from Newtown, CT, of an active shooter in an elementary school building sent panic around the globe. The tragic loss of life that robbed 20 children, under the age of seven, and six staff members have changed the lives of their families and communities for generations to come.

Dr. Robinson and an impressive panel of New Jersey speakers will share their insights into how "Normal" is now changed forever and provide short-term and long-term recommendations for school safety.

Participating in the Full-Day Program:

- ✓ Adrienne Fessler Belli, LCSW, ACSW Director of the Disaster and Terrorism Branch, New Jersey Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health & Addiction Services
- ✓ Edward Dickson Director, Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness, State of New Jersey
- ✓ Anthony Bland State Coordinator, Office of School Preparedness and Emergency Planning, New Jersey Department of Education
- ✓ Chief Raymond J. Hayducka, President, New Jersey State Association of Chiefs of Police; Chief of Police, South Brunswick Township
- ✓ William D. (Ted) Hopkins III, AIA, LEED AP Principal, Fraytak Veisz Hopkins Duthie, P. C.
- ✓ 450 + attendees with significant media coverage from the tri-state region to idea-share with one of their colleagues
- ✓ NJASA donated the proceeds of the Conference to the Sandy Hook Foundation
- ✓ NJASA created an Education Briefs video to feature the program